

Leonard Smelt

Aug. 22 1777

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Our inestimable Treasure, Sir, is arrived, but it leaves us poor indeed, since we have not even words to express our gratitude - Have you, Sir, Have you Madam, vouchsafed to visit our humble Cottage to bless Servants who had no other merit than an ineffectual zeal? How striking are the likenesses, only to be exceeded by those engraven on our hearts, and yet so real as to make us ever hesitate to sit before them - We have dared, Sir, to put them up in our little Cottage, till we go to our Winter Quarters that we might have every moment an opportunity of contemplating them - The room which you have deigned to honour is not above twelve feet square and eight feet high, but it is now expanded into a palace, and inspires as much gratitude and humble respect as ever entered a Royal House - The Shades we have been so lately honoured

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honoured with one placed between the pictures, & I can scarce for a moment keep my eyes from the side of the room they adorn — the more I look the more they rise into reality — surely, Madam the likeness is very very great, the more I look at them, the more my imagination works it self up into a belief that I am really in the presence they represent. —

I presume to think Sir that you are so generous as to do justice to the real of my dutiful attachment, but these pictures seem to have given it an energy I was not sensible it wanted — permit us, Sir, permit us, Madam, humbly to offer our most dutiful and most grateful thanks for the very great favour you have been pleased to confer upon us, & for the unutterable happiness your presence gives us, altho' our eyes stream with tears in the moment we are most sensible of it —

Leicester - 22<sup>d</sup> August 1777



Mr Smith  
August 22. 1794